

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 109

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 18, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Doherty, T.Kean, Kyrillos, Oroho, O'Toole, Singer, Addiego,  
Connors, Bateman, Holzapfel and Madden**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard to U.S.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1    **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard  
2       to the United States.

3  
4    **WHEREAS**, Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, was  
5       convicted in 1977 of the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State  
6       Trooper Werner Foerster and wounding of New Jersey State  
7       Trooper James Harper during a shoot-out on the New Jersey  
8       Turnpike; and

9    **WHEREAS**, After being pulled over for a routine traffic stop, Joanne  
10       Chesimard and fellow members of the radical Black Liberation  
11       Army opened fire on Troopers Foerster and Harper, and Joanne  
12       Chesimard eventually killed Trooper Foerster reportedly “execution  
13       style” by shooting him in the head as he lay wounded by gunfire;  
14       and

15   **WHEREAS**, In 1977, Joanne Chesimard was sentenced to life in prison,  
16       but two years later escaped from a maximum security cell in what is  
17       now the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Union  
18       Township, New Jersey, and later fled to Cuba, where she was  
19       granted political asylum and has since lived; and

20   **WHEREAS**, State authorities have made numerous efforts to extradite  
21       Joanne Chesimard, including an appeal to Pope John Paul II, who  
22       made a historic trip to Cuba in 1998; and

23   **WHEREAS**, In 2013, Joanne Chesimard was the first woman named to  
24       the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s most wanted terrorist list,  
25       indicating State and federal law enforcement consider her to be one  
26       of the greatest threats to the American government; and

27   **WHEREAS**, President Obama recently announced that the United States  
28       will restore diplomatic relations it severed with Cuba more than 50  
29       years ago; and

30   **WHEREAS**, In light of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations  
31       between the nations, Cuba is urged to extradite Joanne Chesimard  
32       to the United States so that she may be brought to justice for the  
33       murder of a dedicated law enforcement officer; now, therefore,

34  
35       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey*:

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37       1. This House urges Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard to the  
38       United States.

39  
40       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
41       shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the charge  
42       d’affaires or United States Ambassador to Cuba and the Secretary  
43       of State of the United States.

STATEMENT

This Senate Resolution urges Cuba to extradite Joanne Chesimard to the United States.

Joanne Chesimard, also known as Assata Shakur, was convicted in 1977 of the May 2, 1973 murder of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster and wounding of New Jersey State Trooper James Harper during a shoot-out on the New Jersey Turnpike. After being pulled over for a routine traffic stop, Joanne Chesimard and fellow members of the radical Black Liberation Army opened fire on Troopers Foerster and Harper, and Joanne Chesimard eventually killed Trooper Foerster by shooting him in the head as he lay wounded by gunfire.

In 1977, Joanne Chesimard was sentenced to life in prison, but two years later she escaped from a maximum security cell in what is now the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Union Township, New Jersey. Joanne Chesimard later fled to Cuba, where she was granted political asylum and has lived ever since.

State authorities have made numerous efforts to extradite Joanne Chesimard and in 2013, Joanne Chesimard was the first woman named to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted terrorist list.

President Obama recently announced that the United States will restore diplomatic relations it severed with Cuba more than 50 years ago. In light of this re-establishment of relations, Cuba is urged to extradite Joanne Chesimard to the United States so that she may be brought to justice for the murder of a dedicated law enforcement officer.